Chapter 2- Miracle’s Boys

The boys knew that their father was a hero. He died trying to save a lady and her dog at Central Park. He was at the park with Tyree. The lady’s dog ran after a bird and fell into the frozen pond. The lady started to scream for help. Their father died of hypothermia. This means his body was too cold, and his heart stopped working. Laf never knew his father. He died before he was born.

NewCharlie is mad at his dad for dying. He said it was wrong to help the dog and the lady.

Milagro, their mother also died. She was born in Puerto Rico. After their mother died, their aunt wanted the boys to come live with her

Tyree is like Lafayette and NewCharlie’s mom and dad.

Chapter 3- Miracle’s Boys

It was Friday. Lafayette watched TV. NewCharlie wanted to be a rapper. He likes to spend time with Aaron, making up songs.

Lafayette whispers to his angel mom, “Can you make some chicken for tonight.” In his head he saw momma. She was smiling. Then Lafayette woke up. His brother Tyree was making chicken. Tyree works and pays all of the bills. He dropped out of college so he could raise or help his brothers. Tyree and Lafayette watched TV. There was sadness in the house.

Chapter 4- Miracle’s Boys

Charlie was sent to jail because he tried to rob a candy store with a gun. When the cops came to the house they arrested Charlie. He still had the gun on him. He was twelve and a half years old. He was too young to go to jail for adults, so they sent him to Rayway Home for Boys. Lafayette and Momma cried.

Things were never the same now that momma and daddy died. Charlie was not the same caring person he was before, he was sent to jail. Lafayette asked Tyree how their mother died. Tyree reminded Lafayette that their mother had diabetes. She went into insulin shock. Her body just shut down.

Lafayette remembered that Charlie was in jail for two months when their mother died. Tyree was at college. Lafayette was the person who found her. He called 911. But they could not help her.

Momma used to always burn the toast. None of the boys ever told her that they did not like it that way. They loved their mother, and did not want to hurt her feelings.

Chapter 5 and Chapter 6

After Lafayette’s mother died, her aunt came from South Carolina. She said that she was going the boys to live with her. Lafayette did not want to live with his aunt. He had only met her one time. She called Lafayette beautiful. People came to the funeral for mama. Charlie was able to go to the funeral. Charlie was made at Lafayette. He blamed Lafayette for his mother’s death. Charlie said that if he were not in jail, he could have saved his mother. Tyree told his aunt that Lafayette was going to live with him. Tyree was going to go to college. He said that he was not going to go to college because keeping Lafayette was important to him.

Lafayette’s mother threw away most of mama’s stuff. This made the boys said. The only thing that was left of mama was the curtains in her bedroom.

Chapter 7

Tyree was cooking chicken. Lafayette was dreaming about fishing at his aunt’s house. His aunt was going to fry up the fish. Newcharlie hit the fish out of his hand. Then Lafayette woke up.

It was now dark and raining. Charlie was not home yet. Aaron is Charlie’s friend. He is bad news. He liked to make fun of the boys. Tyree wanted to see a movie, but did not have much money. Lafayette used to play with his friends. Now he stays inside and watches tv and reads. Lafayette doesn’t even eat candy.

Lafayette told Tyree that he changed too. Tyree said that he has to work hard now so that he can take care of his brothers.

Charlie had changed the most. He used to be kind. Then he went to jail. Now he is mean to Lafayette. He blames Lafayette for his mom’s death. Charlie is mad at the world.

Lafayette started to cry. He said that he should of called someone to help momma. Lafayette thought that Charlie might have been able to help momma. He had helped a dog once. The dog got hit be a car. Charlie carried him home. Momma said that they could not keep the dog. It was hurt. The dog ended up dying.

Lafayette felt cold and empty. He was sad and lonely. Lafayette said that Miss Roberts tried to help. Lafayette was yelling at his momma not to die. He called 911, but it took them a long time to get there.

Lafayette was ready to go to the movies. He was sad, and wanted to do something to get his mind off of momma.

**Chapter 8**

Tyree and Lafayette walked four blocks to the train station. They did not talk. Lafayette knew that they were poor. He remembered his mother cutting coupons with Tyree. He remembered that the school said that they would pay to send him to a camp, a poor camp. Momma said that he could not go.

Momma told Lafayette that they would not always be poor. She remembered growing up in Puerto Rico, where it was like paradise. Momma said that when they had enough money they would all go to Puerto Rico.

Charlie had told Momma that they would never have enough money. That’s way he robbed the candy store.

If they were rich, Tyree would be able to go to college. Lafayette told Tyree that it wasn’t his fault that he couldn’t go to college.

It started to rain, and was cold outside. Lafayette wanted new boots. His boots were too small.

Lafayette missed Charlie. The old Charlie. He started to cry. He told Tyree that New Charlie burned all of Mama’s pictures. Lafayette was able to save only two pictures. New Charlie put plants in all the windows. How was this going to help the family? Brother to Brother. It was something that the boys would say to each other after their mama died. It meant that they loved each other.

Tyree and Lafayette decided to skip the movies and ordered a hot chocolate at a diner.

**Chapter 9**

Tyree remembered the day at the pond. The day his father died. Daddy was sitting on a park bench reading a newspaper. Tyree climbed a tree. Charlie was a toddler and was pregnant with Lafayette. Tyree wanted a baby sister. He wanted her to be as pretty as his mama.

It was very cold that day. Tyree could see a lady in a pink jogging suit and a dog running near the pond. It was a really big dog. Then he heard someone scream. The dog had been running on the lake. The dog fell into the water. The lad went onto the ice too, and fell in. The dog was sinking. Tyree climbed down the tree and told his daddy that he needed to help the dog and the lady.

Daddy ran to the water. He tried to reach the lady with a stick, but it was too short. His father slipped into the water. He was able to save the lady and the dog.

**Chapter 10**

Even though Tyree had done nothing wrong, he blamed himself for his father’s death.

The lady was taken by the ambulance to the hospital, but Daddy said that he was ok. They gave him a blanket to warm up, and went home. Tyree had wanted a dog more than anything. He thought that if he hadn’t told his father to help the dog and the lady, his father would still be alive.

Charlie is mad at the world, because Tyree was with his father when he died, and Lafayette was with his mother when she died. Charlie did not get a chance to say goodbye to either parent.

**Chapter 11**

After Mama died, Lafayette thought he was ok. Aunt Cecile came back and found a doctor for Lafayette to go to. Every Wednesday, Lafayette would to Dr. Vernon’s office. Lafayette felt like he was wrapped in a blanket, when he went there. One day he had to draw a picture of his family. He drew a picture of his brothers. He said that he felt like nothing, because he no longer had a mother and a father.

Lafayette knew he was somebody. He felt that his mother was always with him. This made him feel happy and at peace.

**Chapter 12**

The boys went back to the apartment around ten o’clock. New Charlie was not home yet. Tyree called a girl that he liked on the phone, and Lafayette put on a movie. Lafayette used to like watching movies with Mama.

Charlie fell asleep. He kept dreaming about the dog and Charlie.

**Chapter 13**

Tyree woke up Lafayette. He told Lafayette that Charlie was in jail.

Tyree and Lafayette put on their rain coats. They were heading to the police station.

**Chapter 14**

Lafayette had never been in a police station before. He was so nervous he thought he was going to get sick. It felt like a place that was always gray and rainy. New Charlie was sitting on the bench, curled up. He has a bruised lip and a swollen eye. His hand was cut and swollen. It looked like a bear paw. New Charlie was wearing handcuffs.

Charlie said, “I didn’t do anything.” I didn’t steal that car.”

Tyree showed the policeman his papers that showed he was the guardian of Charlie. The cop said that Charlie was in a stolen car.

Charlie was crying on the bench. The police officer took the handcuffs off of him. He told Charlie that he could go home, but he needed to stay out of trouble.

Tyree wanted to know what happened. New Charlie said. “I am always the bad one, the one that gets into trouble.” He told Lafayette that he was always the angel.

Charlie told Tyree again, “I did not steal the car.”

Charlie looked sad. He looked the same as the day the dog died.

Charlie said that he went to a party with Aaron. It wasn’t a party. It was a jump. Some bad kids jumped Charlie and started to hit him. Aaron said that Charlie would be a somebody if he joined the gang.

Charlie got into the car after they beat him up. They told him they were bringing him home. That was a lie.

Tyree, Charlie and Lafayette walked home quietly.

**Chapter 15**

Mama used to read all the time. She used to read about freedom. “To be free means you can help someone else get free,” she would say.

**Chapter 16**

The phone rang later in the day. Tyree and Charlie were sleeping. Lafayette’s friend wanted him to go outside to play ball. Lafayette told his friend that he would meet him in the park in twenty minutes. When Lafayette was getting dressed, Charlie asked him where he was going.

Lafayette looked at Charlie was wondered how he could help him become free.

**Chapter 17**

Lafayette and his friend sat on the stairs. Smitty had a rich aunt who was always buying him things. Lafayette and Smitty were talking about Charlie. Smitty said that he heard that the police arrested Charlie. Lafayette told Smitty to go upstairs and ask Charlie if that was true.

The boys walked down to the park. Lafayette saw other boys in the park. He saw Aaron staring at him. Aaron did not have any cuts or bruises on him. Aaron was wearing gang colors.

Aaron walked over to Lafayette. Lafayette told Aaron that Charlie didn’t want to be a part of his gang. Aaron made a threat to Lafayette and walked away.

**Chapter 18**

When **Lafayette went home, Charlie was sitting on the stairs. Lafayette walked by, then went back. He had a vision of his Mama sitting on the stairs with Charlie. Lafayette took a picture out of his back pocket. What was Mama holding in her hand. It was a leaf. She had said, “A promise, a new start.”**

**Mama had told Lafayette not to fight with Charlie any more. But they had fought, and this made their mother sad. He took the leaf to her, and made the promise.**

**Lafayette went to where Charlie was sitting. They started to talk. Charlie was still cold and unkind. Lafayette told him that when Mama was dying, she tried to tell him something.**

**Charlie started to cry. Lafayette told Charlie that he didn’t kill his mother. Lafayette showed his brother the picture. It had been many years since he saw a picture of Mama.**

**Charlie told Lafayette that Mama would tell him stories about Puerto Rico. She loved the frogs and the dogs. Charlie sang the song in Spanish, like Mama did.**

**Charlie told Lafayette that he robbed the candy store to get money so that the four of them could to Puerto Rico.**

**Lafayette told Charlie that he could make a copy of the picture, and Charlie said that would be cool.**

**Tyree came home, and saw both of his brothers on the steps. Tyree invited both boys to the movies. Brother to Brother to Brother. Lafayette touched his back pocket. He felt like he had a million dollar prize in his back pocket. It was a picture of his family. His family was finally back together, and they told each other stories about their parents.**